

RINALDI, G.

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Agents Seized in Greece and Cyprus

Roundup of Red Spies

TURIN, Italy, March 24 (UPI)

— A roundup of Russian agents spying on Western military bases is under way in Greece and Cyprus following the cracking of a Soviet ring here, reliable intelligence sources said today.

They said Greek counterespionage have arrested at least several persons and several persons were seized on the island of Cyprus following a tip from Rome.

The arrests stemmed from the seizure and confession of alleged Soviet spy, Giorgio (The Flying Madman) Rinaldi, his wife and chauffeur here, they said.

Italian intelligence agents claimed arrests have been made in Spain and Switzerland as a result of the Rinaldi affair. But in Switzerland a high police official said he knew nothing of such arrests.

SPIED ON NATO

The agents said the roundup centered on persons spying on NATO bases. According to intelligence sources, Rinaldi supplied police with the names of 300 persons connected with his Mediterranean-wide network.

Italian authorities said Rinaldi, 39, who in 1963 set an Italian record for free fall parachuting, is on the verge of a nervous breakdown in his jail cell. They said he fears his alleged former Soviet spymasters will try to kill him.

Rinaldi is refusing all food but hard-boiled eggs, they said. He fears anything else might be poisoned.

NERVES CRACK

Italian intelligence sources said the alleged spy's nerves began wilting immediately after he spent a week pouring out James Bond-like details to interrogators, saying the ring he ran extended throughout the Mediterranean. They said he blamed his wife in an almost hysterical outburst.

"My wife ruined me," he was quoted as yelling in his isolation cell. His wife, 52, and chauffeur were reported far calmer.

Investigators said they were having a difficult time pruning Rinaldi's confession of fiction. But its fact already had results, the spotting of a Soviet diplomat, since expelled, picking up microfilm Rinaldi had hid.